

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Yukihisa TAKEUCHI, Tsutomu NANATAKI, Iwao OHWADA
and Nobuyuki KOKUNE

Ser. No.: 10/699,186

Art Unit: 2879

Filed: October 31, 2003

Examiner: Sikha Roy

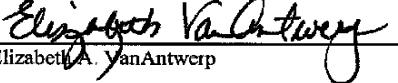
Confirmation No.: 1067

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATION OF TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this paper is being transmitted via *EFS*
to the Patent and Trademark Office on *May 25, 2006*.


Elizabeth A. VanAntwerp

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Required copies of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

Also enclosed is a copy of a Japanese Search Report bearing a mailing date of April 25, 2006 from a corresponding Japanese patent application, and the U.S. PTO is directed thereto for a concise statement of possible relevance of the references cited therein.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants submit the following:

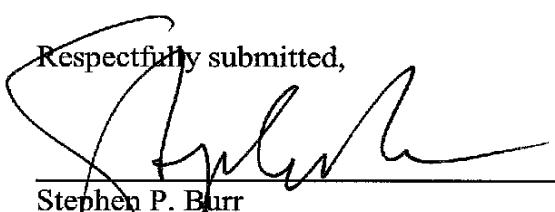
1. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 11-260246 (Ref. DM) corresponds to U.S. Patent No. 6,297,586 (Ref. DI); and
2. Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2002-503832 A1 (Ref. DO) corresponds to International Publication No. 99/41732 (Ref. DP).

International Publication No. 02/052600 A1 was previously submitted to the U.S. PTO in an Information Disclosure Statement dated October 31, 2003.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,



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